MASS. EA1.2:OP 2/3

Massachusetts Open Space Protection Programs: Preserving the Future

UMASS/AMHERST
312066016679337

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

COVER:
THE CRICKET CREEK FARM
IN WILLIAMSTOWN AND ITS
MILE LONG CORNFIELD

Contents

A Legacy of Conservation 3

Land Protection Strategies 4

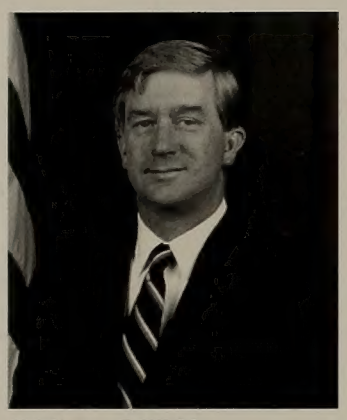
Highlights of FY'94 Acquisitions 5
- Hyannis Ponds 5
- Wilson Mountain 5
- Jug End 5
- Cricket Creek Farm 5
- Bartol Old Farm and Carberry Meadows 7
- Mill River 7
- Wykowski APR 7
- Haynes 7
- Poutwater Pond 7

Massachusetts Open Space Map 8

Long Term Projects 10
- The Berkshires 10
- Connecticut River Valley 10
- Wachusett Reservoir 10
- Blackstone River Corridor 10
- Bay Circuit Trail 12
- Boston Beaches/Blue Hill to Castle Island 12
- Neponset River Watershed/Blue Hill to Castle Island 12
- Coastal Plain Ponds 12
- Waquoit Bay 12

State Open Space Programs 13
- Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR) 13
- Aquifer Land Acquisition (ALA) 13
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) 13
- Bikeways and Rail Trails 13
- Conservation Restrictions 13
- Greenways 15
- Habitat and Wildlife Protection 15
- ISTEA Transportation Enhancement Program 15
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) 15
- Land Banks 15
- MDC Parks and Reservations 15
- MDC Watershed Protection 16
- Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program 16
- Riverways Program 16
- Scenic Byways 16
- SCORP/Massachusetts GIS/EOEA Data Center 16
- Self Help and Urban Self Help 16
- State Parks, Forests, and Cultural Sites 16
- Transportation Open Space Program 16

DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS



William F. Weld

Argeo Paul Cellucci

Trudy Coxe

January 23, 1995

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Weld-Cellucci Administration, we are pleased to introduce "Massachusetts Land Protection: Preserving the Future," detailing our successes in land acquisitions for Fiscal Year 1994.

Massachusetts has a long history of preserving its natural resources and safeguarding open space for recreational use, watershed protection, wildlife shelter, cultivation, and scenic vistas. Our Administration has continued this tradition by dedicating over $41 million in fiscal Year 1994 to protect more than 12,600 acres through acquisitions and other protective measures. Acquisitions such as Jug End, Wilson Mountain, Phelps Farm, and Hyannis Ponds are jewels in the Commonwealth's vast array of natural resources.

During Fiscal Year 1994, state land agents, budget and support personnel, and attorneys worked tirelessly to make difficult acquisition possible. The efforts of the federal and municipal agencies as well as various conservation, recreation, and sportsmen's groups throughout the Commonwealth were critical to our success.

We hope you find this report informative, and that you will be further encouraged to enjoy outdoor activities in any one of Massachusetts' many open space areas.

Sincerely,

Bill Weld Paul Cellucci

William F. Weld
Governor

Argeo Paul Cellucci
Lieutenant Governor

Trudy Coxe

Trudy Coxe
Secretary, Executive Office
of Environmental Affairs

Massachusetts is a relatively small state in size, but its landscape is rich in diversity and natural beauty. Stretching from Cape Cod and Cape Ann on the Atlantic coast through river valleys and farmland to the mountain ranges of the Berkshires, Massachusetts has more than 3,100 lakes and ponds, 10,700 miles of rivers and streams, 500,000 acres of wetlands, and 1,500 miles of saltwater coastline.

Although Massachusetts is the third most densely populated state in the nation, we have a long tradition of leadership in preserving open space for the benefit of the public and the environment. The Boston Common, the first public park in the nation, was established in 1634; Massachusetts residents formed the world's first private nonprofit land conservation trust in 1891; and the first regional system of public parks was created in the Greater Boston area in 1893. These and other pioneering efforts in land conservation have helped Massachusetts retain its natural character and provide many aesthetic, environmental, and recreational benefits that could easily have been lost.

In the last 100 years, state government, through a variety of open space protection programs, has protected 528,400 acres, an area equivalent to more than ten percent of the total land mass of the state. In addition, federal, county, local, and private non-profit agencies and organizations have protected more than 375,700 acres of beaches, trails, mountains, rare habitats, and other natural resources, for a total of more than 904,100 acres of protected open space in Massachusetts.

Even though more than eighteen percent of Massachusetts' 5,016,755 acres are protected, development pressures continue to threaten significant open space areas. Changing demographics have made land and water conservation a state-wide issue rather than one of only regional or local concern,and have renewed the imperatives to preserve open space today for future generations.

FALL FOLIAGE AT JUG END

There are many different state programs related to open space protection (see descriptions beginning on page 13), of which five are the principal sources of funding for direct state acquisitions. In 1993, EOEA adopted a policy that assigned equal importance to each of these state acquisition programs, resulting in greater cooperation among agencies and more equitable allocations of funds for each program. Funding for the five principal programs has increased from less than $18 million in 1991 to more than $41 million in 1994. As one example of the impact of this increase, the Metropolitan District Commission protected more park land in that four-year period than it had in the previous 15 years.

Four state agencies administer these five acquisition programs for a variety of purposes: the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) acquires open space for state parks, forests, cultural sites, and critical resource protection; the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Law Enforcement (DFWELE), with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), focuses on habitat protection; the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) addresses open space and park needs in the Greater Boston area and watershed protection for safe and reliable drinking water; and the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) is responsible for the protection and preservation of agricultural land. Other state agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Protection, the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Division of Capital Planning and Operations, also play active roles in evaluating, acquiring, and permanently protecting valuable open space.

Each of the five primary open space acquisition programs uses several tools to protect the resources that are appropriate for its mission. Increasingly, state agencies work in partnership with the more than 100 local and regional land trusts, state-wide conservation and sportsmen's groups, local conservation commissions, and municipal agencies to pool resources and professional expertise. This strategy is particularly useful for large or complex acquisitions, but is also effective in transactions of any size or type.

In addition to direct acquisition of open space, restrictions are another important method for protecting significant natural resources. There are several types of restrictions under Massachusetts law, including conservation restrictions, agricultural preservation restrictions, and watershed preservation restrictions. Restrictions can be purchased by the state, or can be executed by the landowner with the approval of the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, the DFA Commissioner, or the MDC Commissioner, depending on the type of restriction. These restrictions prevent development uses and other activities that may be incompatible with natural resource protection, while still allowing private ownership of the property.

There are several advantages to restrictions: they cost less to purchase than outright acquisitions, help maintain the local tax base, minimize the state's on-going management costs, and still offer important benefits to the public. Today, more than 76,350 acres in Massachusetts are protected through these restrictions.

PLYMOUTH GENTIAN, ONE OF THE RARE SPECIES AT HYANNIS PONDS

1994 Acquisitions: Making Fields of Dreams a Reality

In FY'94, the Commonwealth spent $41,126,444 on 111 parcels in 62 towns and cities, protecting 8,930 acres. The Secretary of Environmental Affairs also approved conservation restrictions held by municipalities and nonprofit organizations on another 3,703 acres, for a total of 12,633 protected acres.

Many of the FY'94 acquisition projects had been agency priorities for years, but had not been protected due to the complexity of the transaction or high cost, or both. A combination of increased funding, professional expertise within and outside of state government, and landowners who generally supported open space protection helped to make the twelve-month period from July of 1993 through June, 1994, a particularly successful year. Below are descriptions of some of the more significant acquisitions.

Hyannis Ponds

Located between the Barnstable Airport and U.S. Route 6, this 357-acre site was once part of an industrial park development and now is under the jurisdiction of DFW. Water levels in these ponds are based on ground hydrology, rising and falling depending on the level of the groundwater table, and support many rare plant and animal species. In addition, the site protects drinking water supplies for local residences and businesses.

This acquisition was made with technical advice and other assistance from the state Department of Environmental Protection and Barnstable town officials. As part of a continuing cooperative effort, The Nature Conservancy, with financial assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will work with the town and DFW on developing a management plan for both the land and the water resources in this unique habitat.

Wilson Mountain

Wilson Mountain in Dedham was one of the largest unprotected open space areas within Route 128 when the MDC acquired the three parcels that comprise this new acquisition. Since the late 1980s, the MDC had sought Wilson Mountain's 200 acres of well-stocked woodlands to provide scenic vistas, trails, and other recreational activities. An earlier acquisition done in cooperation with The Trust for Public Land and the Dedham Land Trust links Wilson Mountain with the Charles River, making canoeing/hiking excursions possible.

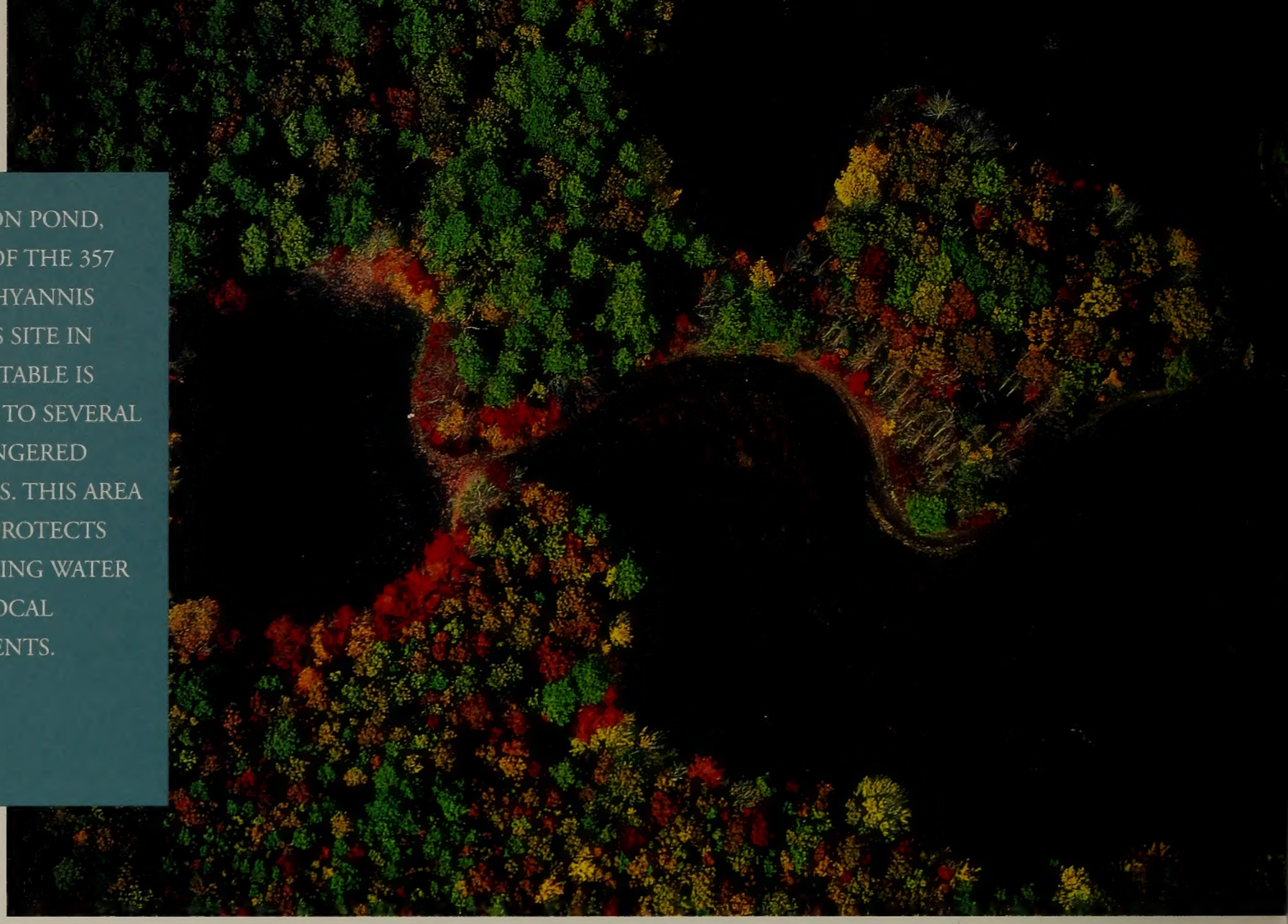
Jug End

This 1,157 acre former resort property located in Egremont in the Berkshire Mountains is an important acquisition for the rare and endangered species it protects, the great expanse of significant habitat it encompasses, and the tremendous recreational value it affords. It connects two existing state forests to create over 5,000 acres of contiguous open space, provides additional protection to the Appalachian Trail corridor, and protects a large portion of the Karner Brook Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Long sought for protection by the state, the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, and sportsmen, Jug End had been threatened by development since the resort closed in the 1980s. It was acquired from the Resolution Trust Corporation by DEM and DFWELE with financial and legal assistance from The Nature Conservancy and the law firm of Keohane & Keegan.

Cricket Creek Farm

Owned by the Phelps family for generations, Cricket Creek Farm is a stunning 967-acre active dairy farm in Williamstown. Of this total area, 626 acres were protected by DEM, DFA, the Town of Williamstown, and the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, which coordinated the negotiations on this complex acquisition. Through a series of direct acquisitions, restrictions, and the protection of additional land by The Trustees of Reservations, this project will provide public access to the Taconic Crest Trail, protect the character and panoramic views of the area, conserve prime agricultural soils, and enable the Phelps family to continue farming.



LAMSON POND, PART OF THE 357 ACRE HYANNIS PONDS SITE IN BARNSTABLE IS HOME TO SEVERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES. THIS AREA ALSO PROTECTS DRINKING WATER FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

JUG END IN EGREMONT IS FAMED FOR ITS BIODIVERSITY AND RECREATION-AL VALUE. BY LINKING TWO STATE FORESTS, THIS 1,157 ACRE PARCEL CREATES OVER 5,000 ACRES OF CONTIGUOUS OPEN SPACE.

Bartol Old Farm and Carberry Meadows

These two parcels are adjacent to the MDC's Blue Hills Reservation in Milton and together protect 124 acres through direct acquisition and conservation restrictions. They were acquired to buffer the Blue Hills from adjacent development, protect views from existing woodland trails, and increase the biological diversity and wildlife populations of the Reservation. The Bartol and Carberry properties are excellent examples of acquisitions made in the Neponset River watershed to protect natural resources within the Boston Basin.

Mill River

Comprised of a 72-acre purchase and a 12-acre gift, the Mill River acquisition in Rowley lies along the river of the same name and adjoins the 1700-acre William Forward Wildlife Management Area. This acquisition includes a large upland area, extensive salt marshes, and several thousand feet of river frontage that offer a fine blend of significant habitat resources and attractive recreational opportunities. Protected by DFWELE and managed by DFW, the Mill River parcel had been sought for residential development due to its considerable frontage on Route One and proximity to other major roadways.

THE FROZEN WESTFIELD RIVER IN HUNTINGTON ALONG SIDE ROUTE 20. THE WESTFIELD WAS GIVEN NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATION IN 1994.

Wykowski APR

The 13-acre Wykowski property in Whately possesses a number of important natural resource attributes that made it a top acquisition priority for DFA's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. The land has prime agricultural soils, is located near other blocks of protected farmland, and is presently being rented by local vegetable farmers. By acquiring an APR on the Wykowski property, DFA eliminates the development value, thereby allowing a farmer to purchase the protected land at an affordable price.The Wykowski property also has approximately 300 feet of frontage on the Connecticut River and figures prominently in the view from the top of Mount Sugarloaf. As such, it is significant in its public aesthetic value and the protection it affords to the river corridor, while also strengthening the agricultural community in this region of the state.

Haynes

This cooperative effort by DEM with the Essex County Greenbelt Association and the Town of Boxford protected 181 acres of wooded areas, wetlands, and vernal pools. The Haynes acquisition connects two existing state forests, and will provide the public with additional access to wetlands and the Bay Circuit Trail, an ambitious greenbelt encircling the Greater Boston area. At the request of the family, this parcel will be renamed Cleaveland Farm State Forest.

THE WYKOWSKI FARM, AND THE CONNECTICUT RIVER, AS SEEN FROM SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN. THE FARM ENTERED THE APR PROGRAM IN 1994, WHICH PROTECTS FARMS FROM DEVELOPMENT. SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE APR PROGRAM HAS PROTECTED OVER 30,000 ACRES.

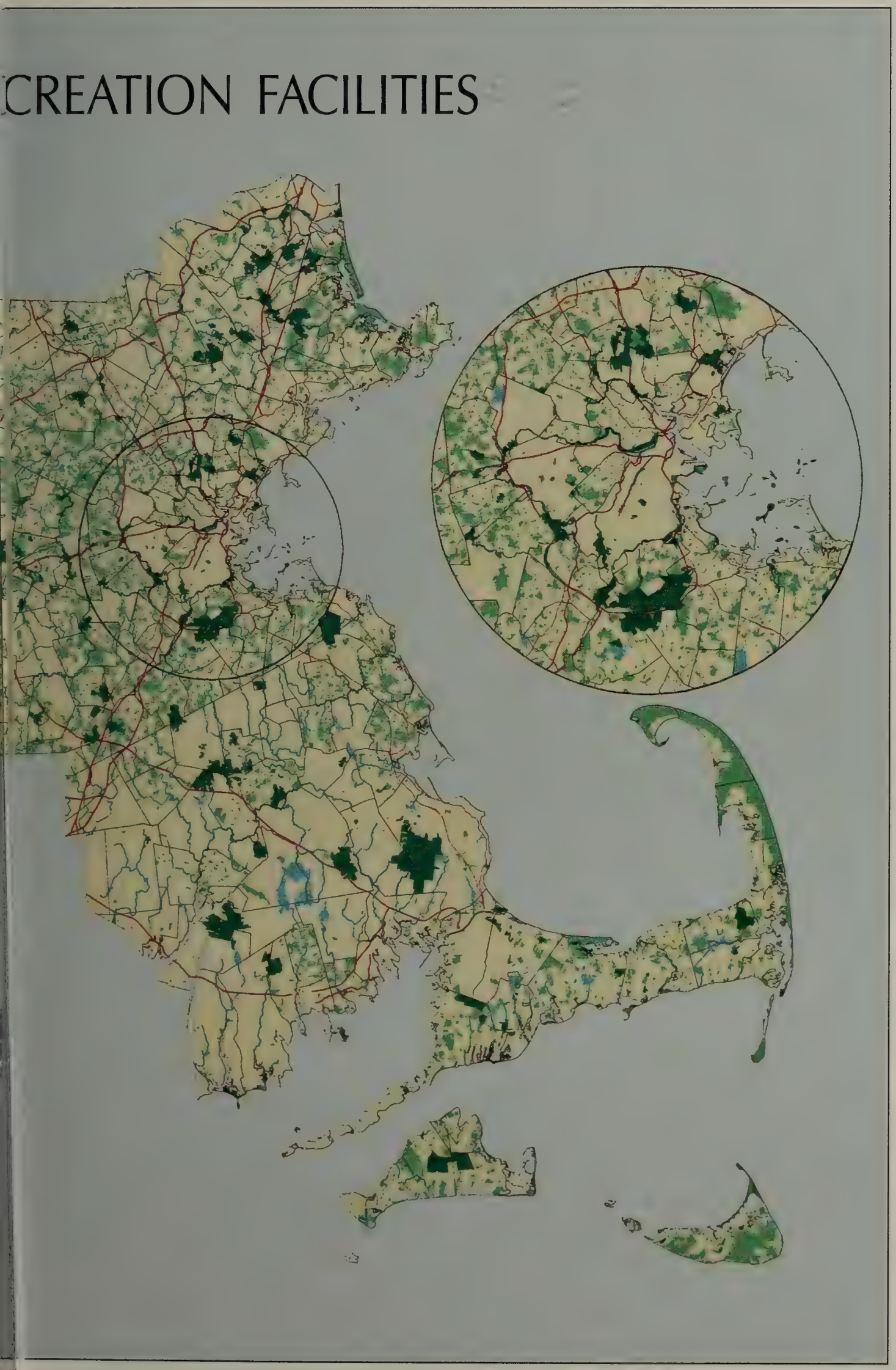
Poutwater Pond

This property, the site of the unique Poutwater Pond, contains 460 acres of land situated in Holden, Princeton and Sterling, and was acquired by the MDC for watershed protection purposes. Comprised of many parcels in several different ownerships, 385 acres of which were purchased from Davis Dairy, Inc., this assemblage of watershed land serves to protect the Trout Brook drainage basin, which provides drinking water to the Wachusett Reservoir. The pond is also the centerpiece of an unusual black spruce bog community and harbors several rare and endangered species.

MASSACHUSETTS OPEN SPACE AND R

State-owned open space and recreational facilities

All other open space and recreational facilities



THIS MAP WAS PRODUCED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AS PART OF A MULTI-YEAR PROJECT TO INVENTORY ALL PROTECTED OPEN SPACE AREAS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Every region of the state is continually reviewed for significant natural and recreational resources that are threatened, and state officials carefully consider local and regional needs in making acquisitions. In addition, there are several long term open space protection projects that are of state-wide significance, some of which are described below.

The Berkshires

The Berkshires are one of the most significant natural resources in Massachusetts, offering unparalleled vistas, wildlife habitat, trail networks, and historic sites. DEM, DFA, and DFWELE work with local, regional, and national land conservation and sportsmen's groups, as well as the Massachusetts Highway Department, to protect significant sites and tracts of land, including areas along the Housatonic, Hoosic, and Green rivers. Efforts here focus on preserving the natural resource-based economy, restoring the many historic properties that characterize this region, and linking existing holdings to form contiguous greenways: one initiative, the Taconic Crest Trail program, joins together New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts in a collaborative effort to protect land and increase public access to this trail.

Connecticut River Valley

Bisecting the state, the Connecticut River Valley contains some of the most productive agricultural soils in the world and is bordered by mountain peaks that offer tremendous panoramas. Three state agencies (DFWELE, DEM, and DFA) work cooperatively to protect the banks of the river, and link the river corridor with existing state parks on numerous mountain peaks. Land is acquired to preserve farmland, protect wildlife habitat, and improve the quality of recreational experiences along the river. A section of the river between Turners Falls and Northampton is being designated a "river trail" in recognition of its scenic and natural resource significance.

Wachusett Reservoir

The watershed of the Wachusett Reservoir is a vital component in the effort to protect the drinking water supplied to the Greater Boston area. This massive drinking water system, operated by the MDC and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), includes the Wachusett and Quabbin Reservoirs, Ware River watershed and diversion works, aqueducts, pump stations, purification systems, and more than 85,000 acres of land to protect the water resource.

As a result of new federal drinking water regulations, the MDC has actively protected critical parcels in the Wachusett watershed. With funding from the 1992 Watershed Protection Act, $8 million is spent annually to protect land along the shore of the Wachusett Reservoir and its tributaries, as well as in other watersheds that are important to the state's largest water supply system.

Blackstone River Corridor

This 26-mile river corridor stretches from the city of Worcester to the town of Blackstone at the Rhode Island border, and is rich in natural, historic, and cultural resources. Working with local land trusts and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, DEM is acquiring additional property along the Blackstone to further protect existing natural and man-made features, increase public access, and expand walking trails along the river and the canal. DEM and the Massachusetts Highway Department are also working on a feasibility study that may one day result in a bike path along the river corridor from Worcester to Providence.

WAQUOIT BAY ALONG CAPE COD'S SOUTHERN SHORE IS ONE OF 22 AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC). THIS BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES HAVE BEEN A FOCUS OF LAND PROTECTION STRATEGIES SINCE THE EARLY 1980'S.

PROTECTING THE CRICKET CREEK FARM WAS THE CULMINATION OF SIX YEARS OF WORK, AND REPRESENTED A MAJOR MILE-STONE IN LAND CONSERVATION EFFORTS. MANY CALL THE FARM THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF LAND IN NORTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY.

Bay Circuit Trail

The Bay Circuit Trail was first envisioned in 1929 by noted Boston landscape architect and regional planner Charles Eliot 2nd, and stretches from Plum Island in Newburyport around the Greater Boston area to Duxbury. The Bay Circuit Trail connects existing protected open space areas along one of the most ambitious greenway projects in the nation. Current efforts are focused on land acquisitions to protect the integrity of the 100-mile trail and link non-contiguous parcels.

Boston Beaches/Blue Hill to Castle Island

With the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's six billion dollar clean-up underway, dramatic improvements have already been made to the water quality of Boston Harbor. To restore the beaches of Boston Harbor to their world-class status, the state, through the MDC, DEM, and the Division of Capital Planning and Operations, has teamed up with Boston, Quincy, and Winthrop in a $30 million dollar, multi-year revitalization project. This project will include improvements to beach facilities, acquisitions, resanding, and environmental restoration.

The MDC took a dramatic step in this process in 1993 when it acquired a missing link in the harborside walkway between Carson Beach and Harbor Point for $3 million. This acquisition, and other improvements, serve a dual purpose in the restoration of the Boston Harbor beaches and in completing a proposed 16-mile greenway from Castle Island in South Boston to the Blue Hills Reservation in Milton.

Neponset River Watershed/Blue Hill to Castle Island

The Neponset River contains vast stretches of marshland and wetland areas on both its upper and lower reaches. This year, the Neponset River was selected as a pilot project for the Watershed Initiative instituted by Environmental Affairs Secretary Trudy Coxe.

The Watershed Initiative is designed to marshal state and local government resources with private industry and public conservation organizations to protect significant natural resources. As part of this program, the MDC has increased its efforts to protect land along the Neponset River and to further expand the Blue Hills Reservation; much of this effort also ties into the Blue Hills to Castle Island greenway that is described above. In addition, DEM, DFA, and DFWELE continue to explore land conservation opportunities throughout the Neponset River watershed.

NORTHERN SPRING SALAMANDER AT JUG END

Coastal Plain Ponds

Formed by retreating glaciers at the end of the ice age, coastal plain ponds are shallow depressions that intercept the water table. Seasonal fluctuations in the water levels of coastal plain ponds create a shoreline habitat that support some of the richest communities of rare species in Massachusetts. DFWELE has actively pursued protection of these ponds, which are located almost exclusively in Plymouth and Barnstable Counties, and include the Hyannis Ponds described above.

Waquoit Bay

Waquoit Bay is an estuary on the south side of Cape Cod whose 20 square-mile watershed lies within the towns of Falmouth, Mashpee, and Sandwich. Known for its recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat, Waquoit Bay and its tributaries have been the focus of federal, state, municipal, and Wampanoag tribal protection strategies for decades: since 1980, the state alone has spent more than $20 million on acquisitions in this watershed. This area also encompasses the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and South Cape Beach, a popular recreation destination. Recently, local activists have initiated an effort to establish a National Wildlife Refuge within the Waquoit Bay watershed.

There are many state programs that relate directly to open space protection. Descriptions of these programs with contacts are listed below.

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR)

APRs allow farmers to continue owning and farming their land, but permanently protect this farmland from development or other incompatible uses. The state currently holds APRs on over 30,000 acres of Massachusetts farmland. Contact Rich Hubbard, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Food and Agriculture, at (508) 792-7711 or (617) 727-3000.

Aquifer Land Acquisition (ALA)

ALA is a municipal reimbursement grant program operated by the Department of Environmental Protection to protect the recharge zones surrounding public water supplies. Although the ALA program is not making grants at this time, it does provide technical expertise and other services to state agencies and municipalities. Contact Joan Pierce, ALA Regional Planner, at (617) 556-1106.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

An ACEC is an area containing concentrations of highly significant environmental resources that has been formally designated by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs following a public nomination and review process. There are currently 22 ACECs, with several other areas in the nomination or review stage.

Although the ACEC Program does not acquire land, it does assist in the protection and preservation of critical areas, primarily through better environmental planning, review, and cooperation at the local, regional, and state levels. Contact Leslie Luchonok, ACEC Director, or Liz Sorenson, ACEC Planner, at (617) 727-3160.

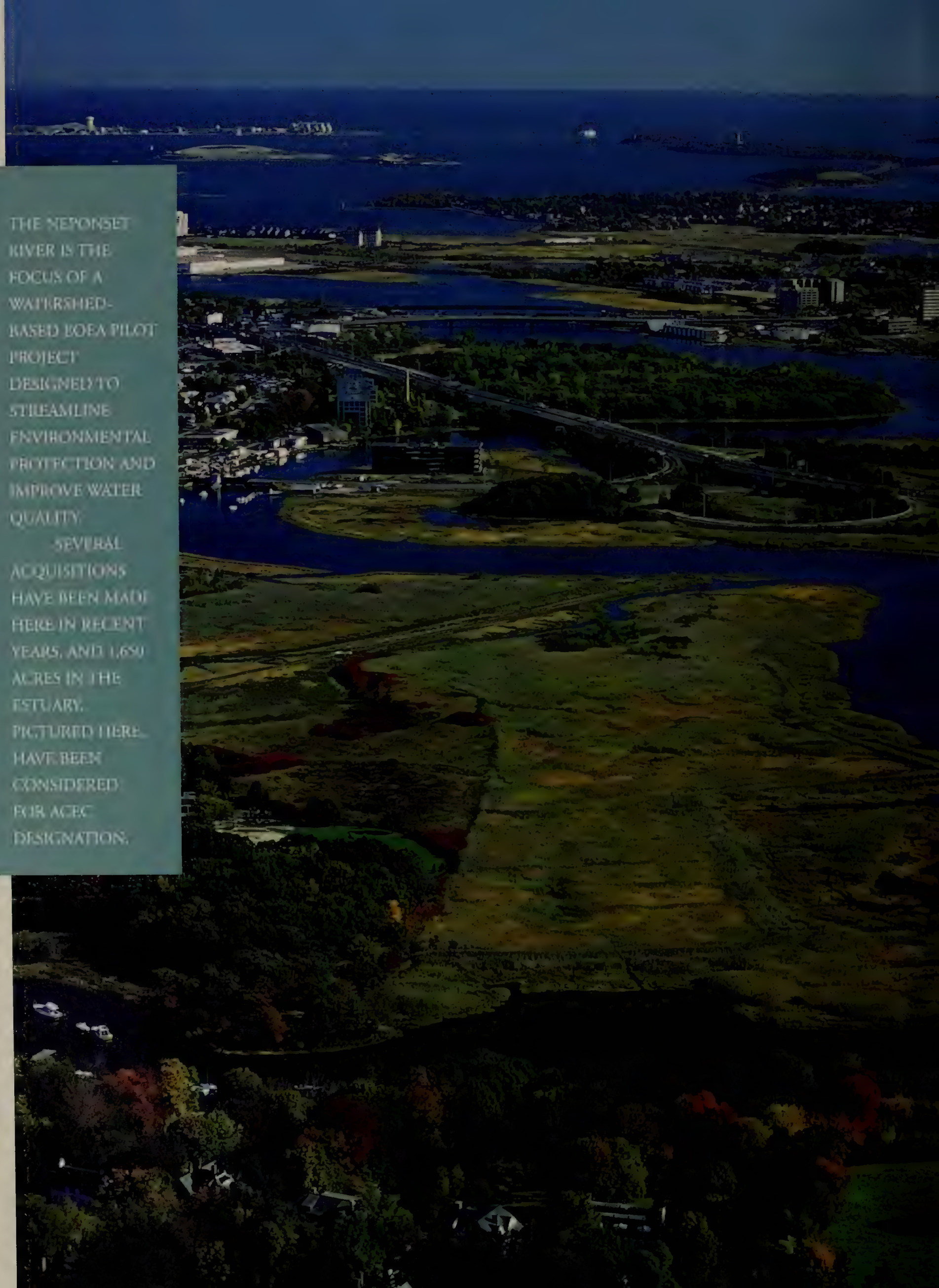
Bikeways and Rail Trails

Biking has long been popular in Massachusetts, and the success of the state's oldest bike trail, the Paul Dudley White Bikepath along the Charles River, has led to new trails, including the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway northwest of Boston, the Cape Cod Rail Trail, and the Norwottuck Rail Trail in the Connecticut River Valley. Additional bicycle facilities are being planned statewide, including bicycle trails on abandoned railroad lines, a system of on-road bikeways, and other bicycle corridors. Contact Danny O'Brien, DEM Bikeway and Rail Trail Planner, at (617) 727-3160; Dave Queely, MDC Bikeways Planner, at(617) 727-9693; or Josh Lehman, Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator for the Massachusetts Highway Department, at (617) 973-7329.

ONE OF THE HYANNIS PONDS IN BARNSTABLE.

Conservation Restrictions

The Secretary of Environmental Affairs must approve all conservation restrictions held by nonprofit organizations and municipalities. A guide to this process, The Massachusetts Conservation Restriction Handbook, provides information and examples, including details on the types of public benefits that must be included in these restrictions. Contact Joel Lerner, Director of Conservation Services, at (617) 727-1552.



THE NEPONSET RIVER IS THE FOCUS OF A WATERSHED-BASED EOEA PILOT PROJECT DESIGNED TO STREAMLINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY.

SEVERAL ACQUISITIONS HAVE BEEN MADE HERE IN RECENT YEARS, AND 1,650 ACRES IN THE ESTUARY PICTURED HERE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED FOR ACEC DESIGNATION.

Greenways

Greenways — linear parks, trails, rivers, and wildlife areas — help to protect a variety of resources. The Charles River Esplanade, the Emerald Necklace in Boston, the Bay Circuit Trail, the Blackstone River area, and the Taconic Crest Trail in the Berkshires are all examples of greenways. The state greenways program provides small grants, information, and coordination services to organizations and communities developing greenways. Contact Gail Swett, DEM Greenways Planner, at (617) 727-3160.

Habitat and Wildlife Protection

The Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Law Enforcement and its Division of Fisheries and Wildlife acquire and protect important fish and wildlife habitat. The program is funded both with state bonds and Land Stamp fees, which are collected through fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses. The protected lands are managed by DFW. Contact Rob Warren, DFWELE Bond Fund Administrator, at (617) 727-1614; or Bill Minior, DFW Chief of Realty, at (617) 727-3151.

ISTEA Transportation Enhancement Program

As part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, funding is available for a variety of projects that significantly improve the transportation system in a variety of innovative ways. Categories eligible for funding include the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, the preservation of railroad corridors, the acquisition of scenic and historic sites, and the mitigation of water pollution due to runoff. Contact Patrice Todisco, Transportation Enhancement Coordinator for the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction (EOTC), at (617) 973-7317.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

This federal program, established in 1964, provides funds through the state to municipalities for land acquisitions and park improvements. In recent years, Massachusetts has received between $500,000 and $1,000,000 annually for this program. Contact Jennifer Soper, the LWCF Administrator, at (617) 727-1552.

Land Banks

Created by separate acts of the Legislature, the Commonwealth's two state land banks serve local conservation, recreation, and stewardship needs on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Each land bank is governed by a commission of locally elected members. Contact Dawn Darbey, Director, Nantucket Land Bank Commission, at (508) 228-7240; or James Lengyel, Executive Director, Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission, at (508) 627-7141.

GOVERNOR WELD AND SECRETARY COXE IN A TOUR OF THE NEPONSET RIVER ESTUARY IN APRIL 1994 , WHEN THE NEPONSET RIVER PILOT PROJECT WAS ANNOUNCED.

MDC Parks and Reservations

Created in 1893 as the Metropolitan Park Commission, the MDC is the oldest regional park system in the United States. It protects over 18,000 acres of parkland and 700 lane miles of landscaped parkways and bridges in the Greater Boston area. Acquisitions continue to enhance existing reservations and protect new areas of open space. Contact Tom Gray, Director of Real Property, at (617) 727-5294; or Julia O'Brien, MDC Director of Planning, at (617) 727-9693.

MDC Watershed Protection

The MDC Watershed Management Division (WMD) is responsible for managing and protecting land around the Wachusett, Quabbin, Ware River, and Sudbury watersheds to protect the drinking water for customers of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Contact Tom Gray, Director of Real Property, at (617) 727-5294; or Joe McGinn, WMD Director, at (617) 727-5274.

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)

Although the NHESP does not acquire land directly, it is very important to the work done by other programs in preserving and protecting wildlife habitat. NHESP, a unit of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, is responsible for collecting data, mapping, and advising agencies on rare and endangered species and habitats. Contact Henry Woolsey, NHESP Director, at (617) 727-9194.

Riverways Program

The Riverways Program promotes the restoration, protection, and ecological integrity of the Commonwealth's rivers, streams and adjacent lands. Established in 1987, the Riverways Program was created to encourage and support local river protection initiatives as a vital complement to state action. The Riverways Program also serves as the primary advocate for rivers on a statewide basis and seeks to protect their natural integrity through a variety of means. Contact Maria Van Dusen, Riverways Program Coordinator, or Russ Cohen, Rivers Advocate, at (617) 727-1614.

THE SHORT EARED OWL IS PROTECTED UNDER THE NATURAL HERITAGE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM. ADDITIONAL HABITAT FOR THIS SPECIES WAS PROTECTED ON NANTUCKET IN FISCAL '94.

Scenic Byways

This program encourages the protection of open space resources through the creation of corridor management plans for designated roadways. It is administered by EOTC through the Massachusetts Highway Department, and receives funding through ISTEA. The Scenic Byways program is currently completing plans for Route 6A and Route 20. Contact Patrice Todisco, EOTC Transportation Enhancement Coordinator, at (617) 973-7317.

SCORP/Massachusetts GIS/EOEA Data Center

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is required for eligibility in the federal Land and Water Conservation program, and serves as the state's five-year policy document on outdoor recreation. In addition, the SCORP program has joined forces with Massachusetts Geographic Information Systems (Mass GIS) and the EOEA Data Center in an ambitious project to map and inventory all recreation areas and protected open space in the Commonwealth. Contact Carl Nylen, SCORP Planner, or Christian Jacqz, Mass GIS Director, or Val Casella, EOEA Data Center Director, at (617) 727-5227.

Self-Help and Urban Self-Help Programs

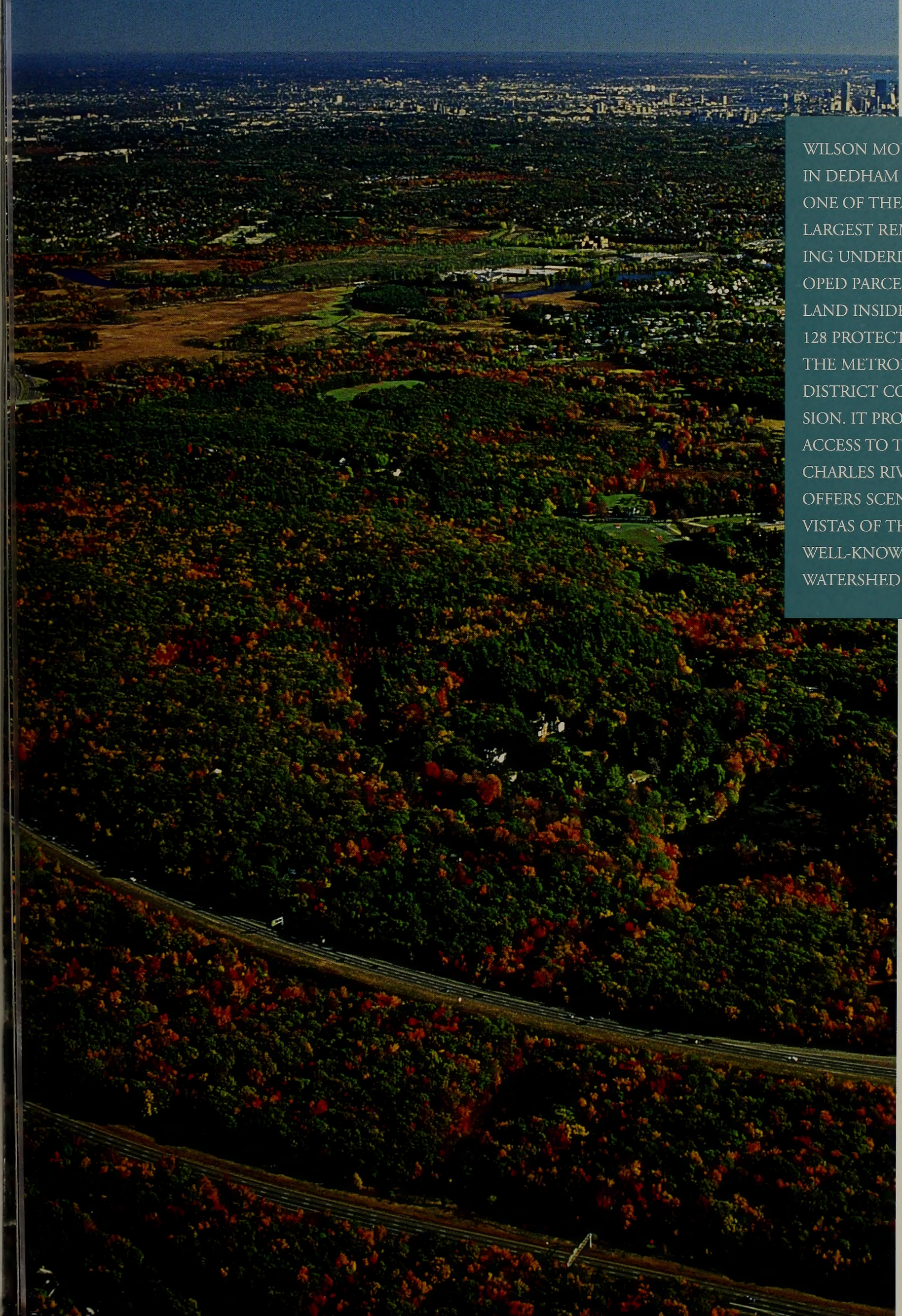
Through the Self-Help and Urban Self-Help programs, municipalities submit competitive applications for matching reimbursement grants. The programs can be used for a variety of conservation and recreation purposes, and were reactivated in 1994 after a seven-year hiatus. Contact Joel Lerner, Director of Conservation Services, at (617) 727-1552.

State Parks, Forests, and Cultural Sites

The Massachusetts DEM operates the seventh largest park system in the country, and acquires or protects land for a variety of recreational, historic, and natural resource stewardship purposes. Contact Bob Wilber, DEM Director of Land Acquisition and Protection, at (617) 727-3160.

Transportation Open Space Program

Initiated in 1985, this program seeks to acquire land that is naturally or aesthetically sensitive and is contiguous to roadways. Working with state and local conservation agencies, EOTC identifies high priority parcels for acquisition, depending on the availability of state bond funds. Contact Patrice Todisco, EOTC Transportation Enhancement Coordinator, at (617) 973-7317.



WILSON MOUNTAIN IN DEDHAM WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST REMAINING UNDERDEVELOPED PARCELS OF LAND INSIDE ROUTE 128 PROTECTED BY THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION. IT PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE CHARLES RIVER AND OFFERS SCENIC VISTAS OF THIS WELL-KNOWN WATERSHED.

About This Report

This report could not have happened without the support and pro bono assistance of several Boston areas individuals and companies. The Executive Office of Environmnetal Affairs extends deep thanks to the following:

Timothy Kilduff, Director of Public Affairs, and **Ted Lavash**, Communications Art Director, Bull Worldwide Information Systems, coordinated the production team.

John Filosi of Filosi Design in Somerville, MA, executed its graphic design.

Potlatch Corporation, Northwest Paper Division, Cloquet, Minnesota, provided the brochure's recycled paper stock.

Steven Romano of Romano & Capozzi, a Boston-based marketing communications firm, provided consultation and editing services for the text.

Kirkwood Printing of Wilmington, MA, provided printing services, and Wikoff Color Corporation donated Soy-based printing inks with an environmentally safe vegetable base.

The report was conceived and written by EOEA Land Policy Director Tom Skinner, and produced by EOEA Public Affairs Director Sam Campbell.

Photot credits:

Cover, Alex MacLean; page 3, Alex MacLean; page 4, Bob Wilber, DEM; page 6, Alex MacLean; page 7, Mass Highway (top), Rich Hubbard, DFA (bottom); page 11, Alex MacLean, top, Rich Hubbard, bottom; page 12, Bill Byrnes; page 13, DEM file; page 14, Alex MacLean; page 15, The Patriot Ledger; page 16, Rob Warren, DFW ELE; page 17, Alex MacLean.

DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
NIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST, MA 01003

Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202

printed on recycled paper